

# Go Ape zip line Treetop Adventure opens at Lums Pond State Park

BEAR (June 21, 2013) – DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara joined State Representative. Valerie Longhurst, and other state and parks officials on the brand new zip lines at the new Go Ape Treetop Adventure at Lums Pond State Park. It's the first zip line treetop adventure course in a state park on the East Coast; the first treetop adventure course in Delaware, and Go Ape's first partnership with a state park. Under the public/private partnership, Go Ape and DNREC's Division of Parks and Recreation are offering Delawareans this unique outdoor adventure.

"This is a first for Delaware and I'm delighted Go Ape decided to locate at beautiful Lums Pond State Park," said Governor Jack Markell. "This regional attraction will benefit Delaware tourism and our local businesses by drawing nearby visitors and people from surrounding states. That's a boon for our tourism economy and for Lums Pond State Park. It's a fun and healthy adventure and another great reason to get outside in Delaware this summer."

Go Ape is a highly interactive treetop adventure where participants are equipped with harnesses, pulleys and carabineers and receive a 30-minute training session before they are turned loose into the trees. The course at Lums Pond State Park will provide visitors with two to three hours of outdoor fun and exercise while they navigate more than 40 obstacles situated in the treetops of the park.

"We are so excited to come to Delaware and bring with us some of the longest zip lines Go Ape has anywhere in the U.S.," said Dan D'Agostino, USA Managing Director for Go Ape.

“Because of its water features, Lums Pond State Park is the perfect location to create the first zip lines to cross a body of water in a state park.”

The course spans seven acres and features five zip lines, four of which will fly participants over Lums Pond. Also included are two Tarzan swings and a series of rope ladders, bridges, swings and trapezes, many with views of the pond.

“We welcome Go Ape’s low-impact recreation approach and commend them for their attention to protecting the trees and the environment around the course,” said DNREC Secretary Collin O’Mara. “We are so pleased that Delaware families have their own zip line adventures available to them at a great location like Lums Pond State Park. This is a course that allows us to ‘live life adventurously,’ and experience the park like never before, from 50 feet up in the trees, hanging by a wire. I challenge everyone to take a ride down, to get outdoors and enjoy all that Delaware has to offer in nature this summer. I’ll see you in the trees.”

Go Ape’s mission is to support park departments across the country. To date, Go Ape has developed rewarding partnerships with park departments in Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Rockville, Md. and Williamsburg, Va. Under each partnership, a portion of every ticket sold goes back to the respective park department while 100 percent of the capital investment is paid for by Go Ape.

“Go Ape’s attractions are a perfect fit for Delaware, and a great tool for boosting our visibility as a tourist destination,” said Linda Parkowski, director of the Delaware Tourism Office. “The zip lines will attract people who are looking for outdoor adventures, which are very popular with travelers.”

In addition, Go Ape leads park stewardship programs, develops educational signage, hosts yearly fundraisers to raise funds

for the park, and provides free and discounted tickets to underserved and special needs communities. Go Ape aligns its goals and activities to those of its park partners to encourage the sustainability and health of the parks and the communities they serve.

“A lot of people have the idea that they need to leave Delaware to participate in high-adventure outdoor activities,” said DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation Director Charles Salkin. “But, Delaware State Parks offer rock climbing, mountain biking, adventure races, ocean kayaking and much more. Adding the Go Ape course to the mix makes our state park system the go-to place for this level of outdoor experience.”

For more information, visit <http://youtu.be/4Y96umTPAZ8> to see a one-minute, action-packed video of people on the Delaware Go Ape course.

More information, including directions can be found at [www.goape.com/zip-line/delaware-lums-pond-state-park](http://www.goape.com/zip-line/delaware-lums-pond-state-park). GPS directions are: Lums Pond State Park, 1042 Howell School Road, Bear, 19701.

You can become a fan of “Go Ape USA” on Facebook or follow @GoApeUSA on Twitter. To see video of the Go Ape experience, visit Go Ape’s YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/goapeusa](http://www.youtube.com/goapeusa). To book treetime, go to [www.goape.com](http://www.goape.com) or call 1-800-971-8271. The cost is \$35 (ages 10-17) and \$55 for adults.

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